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131); while much of his information regarding other matters was derived from authors like Stubbs, Dicey and Anson. Many of the ideas which he sets forth in the lectures on the period to 1307 were developed in his History of English Law, to which the editor gives frequent references in the foot-notes.

The style is remarkably lucid, better adapted to the needs of undergraduates than that of the author's later works. Here and there, however, we have some of those playful touches which enliven the pages of his History of English Law. For example, p. 142: "Now were an examiner to ask who introduced the feudal system into England? one very good answer, if properly explained, would be Henry Spelman." Again, p. 418: "There is one term against which I wish to warn you and that term is 'the crown.' You will certainly read that the crown does this and the crown does that. As a matter of fact we know that the crown does nothing but lie in the Tower of London to be gazed at by sight-seers."

The editor, H. A. L. Fisher of New College, Oxford, has done his work well, though there are some manifest errors which will doubtless be corrected in forthcoming editions. The editor's foot-note references to recent works are not numerous, but they are selected with discretion and cover some of the more important topics examined in Maitland's lectures.

THE POWERS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. By MASUJI MIYAKAWA. 2nd Ed. New York: THE BAKER & TAYLOR Co. 1908. pp. xiv, 431.

This is an interesting book, particularly to a student of comparative politics. The author is a man of large and varied learning, and reasonably familiar with the political systems of the principal European nations. He has made a careful and profitable study of all the leading cases in constitutional and international law that have been adjudicated by the United States Supreme Court. In fact, these adjudged cases form the substance of his book, to which are appended the text of Magna Carta, the Constitution of Japan, the Declaration of American Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States.

The book is thoroughly up to date. Authorities are cited as recent as the address of President-elect Taft to the Brooklyn Bar Association in February, 1908. It is easy to see how a second edition of this work has been called for within the short space of two years. Our author in his political sympathies is thoroughly American, while not devoted to any narrow school of constitutional interpretation, nor holding a brief for any cause. He is an extravagant eulogist of the Monroe Doctrine, of trial by jury, and of the American Bench and Bar. On page 11 he sounds his keynote by saying that "the American people are, from every point of view, sovereign, omnipotent, and that they can do no wrong. Let us now proceed a step toward proving the strength, beauty and immortality of the republic—the only real republic the world has ever begotten." Our author has no sense of humor. If he had, he would join us in a smile at some observations like the following, on page 326: "It is not in the least exaggerating to say that the leaders of the American Bar, in a large city like New York, enjoy yearly incomes of about \$500,000;" or at this, on page

64: "Joseph G. Cannon is reputed as the most popular American Speaker. His characteristic sympathy is beloved by all who know him. He is, according to Vice-President Fairbanks, the modern Lincoln."

The topics discussed cover the whole range of the Constitution, and it must be frankly admitted that the work is exceptionally well done. The discussion is clear and precise, and never dreary. The book has faults that should be corrected in later editions. For innumerable *verbatim* quotations there are no references to sources. And in citing decisions of our highest court, only the liber and page of the volume of reports are furnished, and the title of the case is almost invariably omitted. Others have done this, and still do it, but it is wrong and distracting, because the chief value of a law book is not as a work of art, but as an index to authorities. The Japanese school question of San Francisco receives a disproportionately extended treatment, probably because the author has much special knowledge on the subject, acquired while acting as attorney for some of the expelled pupils (p. 243). We grieve to find so judicious a writer begin his chapter on "The Unwritten Powers of the Courts" by saying (p. 332): "Practically and theoretically, the legislative omnipotence of Congress is recognized by the undivided opinion of the modern school of constitutional study." This exactly reverses the truth unless we are to regard the observation as a cynical comment on present day tendencies.

Our author is Japanese, of course, and to this fact we owe the real value of his book. For on almost every page he recurs to Japanese polity and institutions, and always with pride and loving interest, and we doubt not with accuracy. In such places he is always instructive. It would be difficult to indicate any other volume handier than this where so much illumination on constitutional government can be gained from Oriental sources. References on page 258 to "the dissemination of the American religion," and "the propagation of faith in the American God" show the author's early education in a non-Christian country. But he is master of the main propositions in his work, and has probably acquired familiarity with our jurisprudence at first hand. He tells us (p. 250) that the Japanese are a proud people, and will not "tolerate any imputation of inferiority that classes them below the citizens of this country, or the citizens or subjects of the first power of the civilized world." They are not, he says, of Mongolian race or Mongolian descent. They have a reciprocal treaty with every civilized power upon as equal a footing as Great Britain has with the United States. It is certainly impressive to read the Constitution of Japan, and note in Chapter II, on the rights and duties of subjects, that personal liberty, freedom from search, the right of privacy, freedom of religious belief, and the liberty of speech and publication shall all remain inviolate forever.

In style, the book, in spite of its Oriental extravagance of rhetoric, compares favorably with the ordinary output of American publishers. The author illustrates certain stubborn vices of Japanese who assume to write English; but, on the whole, he wins our admiration by a simple and effective diction. Certain pedantic expressions, by their rarity, recall the general excellence of the book, as, for example, this sentence on page 167: "The President of the United States, the strictest creature of the Constitutional nomenclature, is not obnubilated behind the mysterious obscurity of counselors." We predict a large sale for the book.